

Photographic Analysis

Names of Group Members: _____

Select a photograph from the American Memory collection, Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920. Search for photographs illustrating the theme of immigration by entering one of the following keywords:

children	school	railroad/railway
families	emigrants	immigrants
Jewish	carriages	market
tenement	street scene	peddler
Italians	Germans	Irish

Select one photograph to analyze. Print one copy of the photograph. Attach the photograph to the questions. Answer the questions below based on your photograph.

1. What is the title/caption of the photograph?
2. List two Library of Congress subject headings for the photograph.
3. What is the setting for the photograph?
4. Write one objective observation about the photograph.
5. Write one subjective observation about the photograph.

6. Whose story do you think is being told and whose story is left untold?
7. Do the clothing, the background, or any other elements of the photograph provide any clues about the photograph? Explain.
8. When and where in the past do you think that the photograph was taken? How can you tell?
9. If you had been the photographer, why would you have taken this photograph?
10. Does the photograph appear to be staged? If there are people in the photograph, are they posed?
11. Why did you choose this photograph?
12. What questions would you still like to have answered about this photograph? Is it possible to answer the remaining questions? How?